

Washington - Congressman John W. Olver (D-1st District) announced that last night the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Transportation and Urban Development Appropriations Bill, 2008. Congressman Olver is Chairman of the THUD Appropriations Subcommittee and crafted the bill. This bill provides \$104.4 billion of total spending, \$4.4 billion more than last year and \$4.1 billion more than the President's request. "This is a bipartisan and fiscally responsible bill. Each year the President's budget arrives with severe cuts to transportation and urban development programs. The Senate must still approve its appropriations bill and then both chambers will have to approve a reconciliation bill. Following are highlights of some of the bill's provisions.

#### *Housing*

Quote: "The programs funded through HUD are critical to thousands of communities and low-income families."

#### **Highlights:**

- Community Development Block Grants: \$4 billion, \$228 million above 2007 and \$963 million above the President's request.
- HOPE VI: \$120 million, \$21 million above 2007, rejecting the President's proposal to eliminate the program.
- Housing for the Elderly: \$734.5 million, the same as 2007 and \$159.6 million above the President's request.
- Housing for the Disabled: \$236.6 million, the same as 2007 and \$111.6 million above the President's request.
- Section 8 Tenant Based Vouchers: \$16.3 billion, \$410 million above 2007 and \$330 million above the President's request.
- Section 8 Project Based Vouchers: \$6.5 billion, \$503 million above 2007 and \$667 million above the President's request.

#### *Transportation*

Quote: "With an aging surface and aviation infrastructure; an aging workforce; and growing congestion in our cities, it is imperative that we invest in our transportation infrastructure."

#### **Highlights:**

- Amtrak: \$1.4 billion, \$106 million above 2007 and \$600 million above the President's request, to provide for the modernization of the rail system.

- Highway Infrastructure: \$40.2 billion, \$1.25 billion above 2007 and \$631 million above the President's request
- Rail Line Relocation and Improvement Grants: \$35 million, for a new initiative to relocate local rail lines
- Airport Modernization, Safety and Efficiency Grants: \$3.6 billion, \$85.5 million above 2007 and \$85 million above the President's request